



# GOVERNMENT OF GUÅHAN



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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### PROMOTING HEALTHY FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

#### **April is Child Abuse Prevention Month From the Director of Public Health and Social Services**

*Buenas yan Saluda!* The month of April is devoted to celebrating everything we can do to transform our community into a place that cares about and actively supports families and children. **April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.** The national theme for this year is **"Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-Being: A Network for Action."**

In Fiscal year 2011, Guam Child Protective Services received a total of 1,897 referrals of child abuse and neglect involving a total number of 2,512 children who were suspected of being abused or neglected.

This month and throughout the year, the **Department of Public Health & Social Services, Bureau of Social Services Administration** encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making **Guam** a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children's social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities.

Research shows that when parents possess six protective factors, the risk for neglect and abuse diminish and optimal outcomes for children, youth, and families are promoted. The six protective factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional developmental well-being

April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children. Everyone's participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lydia D. Tenorio, Human Services Administrator, Bureau of Social Services Administration at 475-2653/2672.

*Senseramente,*

**James W. Gillan**  
Director